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telephonic interface apparatus for interconnecting said television communication structures at said plurality of remote locations and said central station to provide at least one-way audio and at least one-way video communications;

a memory unit for storing programmed operations for sequential remote location communication including identification designation data; and

a control computer coupled to said memory unit and said telephonic interface apparatus for sequentially actuating under control of said computer said telephonic interface apparatus to selectively communicate in sequence, under computer control, from said plurality of remote locations to at least one of said plurality of television display structures in accordance with said programmed operation to control the display of said television display structures.

REMARKS

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 26-33 and 50. Applicant further appreciates, and wish to make of record, the in-person interview between Examiner Woo and Reena Kuyper on April 8, 1999, at the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The Vision by Telephone reference and its arguable impact on the claims as then presented was discussed. No specific amendments of the claims were considered.

Turning now to the Office Action, paragraph 2, the two amendments not previously entered due to an erroneous line identification have been made herein. The amendment to claim 30 was to be made at line 18. Claim 46 has been presented in its entirety including the amendment, thus avoiding the line designation issue.

The "Vision by Telephone" reference fails to teach, suggest or even contemplate Applicant's disclosed and claimed system. In at least one exemplary operating format, Applicant's system

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utilizes a computer controlled system for obtaining "identification designations for scrutiny locations" which are "provided in sequence to address a memory for fetching telephone numbers and/or graphic display data." (Specification at page 3, line 33 to page 4, line 2). In contrast, the "Vision by Telephone" has a "surveillance mode" which relies exclusively upon human selection of which remote station to access. As stated in the reference:

"In its surveillance mode a two-digit number keyed into the base station will trigger a 60-way auto teller to dial out to the selected remote station." (Page 2, left hand column).¹ (Emphasis added).

Both the selection of the location to be monitored as well as the determination of the proper two-digit number corresponding to that location require *human selection* and keying in of that information. Applicant's amended claims, as now pending, have been clarified to highlight that the system stores "identification designation data" and that that data is used under computer control to sequentially activate the interface for communication between the central station and the desired scrutiny location.

Nor does the "Vision by Telephone" "alarm mode" teach, disclose or suggest this aspect. Rather, when an alarm sensor is activated at a remote site, a number of snap-shots are made in rapid succession, and the site utilizes an auto dialer which calls the base station and begins transmitting the pictures. However, this incoming call does not in any way impact upon the necessity of the human operator to subsequently enter yet a different two-digit code corresponding to a different location so as to select yet another location for monitoring. There is simply no teaching or suggestion in the

¹ See the Amendment Under Rule 129, mailed August 4, 1998, incorporated herein by reference, for a more complete discussion of this reference.

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"Vision by Telephone" reference (or any of the secondary references) which utilize the automated computer controlled interface for scrutiny of a plurality of remote locations.

Specifically, claim 34 now requires that the system have "a control unit including a computer" "including memory for storing identification designation data and graphic display data for said plurality of scrutiny locations", and that the control unit is "for sequentially actuating under said control of said computer telephonic interface apparatus" for communication between the central station and the plurality of scrutiny locations, further noting that upon the occurrence of an interrupt, the interrupt serves to "interrupt said computer controlled sequence". None of the references of record fairly teach or suggest the claimed subject matter as a whole.

Claim 46 now expressly requires that there be "a memory unit for storing identification data, time sequence data, and remote location data on said plurality of remote locations", and that the control computer operates "for actuating under control of said computer in accordance with said identification data and said time sequence data" the telephonic interface apparatus. The redundant language "in accordance with said time sequence data and to control the display of said television display structures" has been deleted.

As to claim 77, the system requires that there be "a memory unit for storing programmed operations for sequential remote location communication including identification designation data", and that the control computer serve "for sequentially actuating under control of said computer" the telephonic interface apparatus. Again, none of the references of record fairly teach or suggest the claimed subject matter as a whole.

Turning now to claims 40-45, 48 and 51, Applicant would respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the arguments and the Amendment of August 4, 1998 regarding the claim limitation to "various alert situations". For convenience, that argument is set forth, below:

"Turning now to claims 40-45, 48 and 51, rejected as obvious over the "Vision By Telephone" publication in view of Thompson, a number of highly pertinent distinctions are apparent. For example, consider claim 40 (and therefore the dependent claims). Specifically, without limitation, the claims require a "plurality" of switch structures at each of said plurality of monitored locations for "providing alert signals indicating various alert situations". As shown in Fig. 2 of the instant application, switches S5, S6 and S7 provide one example of such a system. The specification provides in pertinent part:

"The area 15 containing a desk 20 is provided with three manual switches, S5, S6 and S7, each manifest a situation of a different type. Specifically, the switch S5 indicates an "emergency" or "red" situation, the switch S6 indicates an "alert" or "yellow" situation and the switch S7 indicates a "routine" or "green" situation." (Specification at 15, lines 1-6).

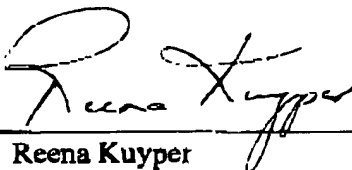
While the "Vision By Telephone" system does include an "alarm mode" in which a sensor at the remote site may be activated, there is simply no teaching or suggestion of Applicant's claim system which includes the plurality of switched structures for providing alert signals indicating "various alert situation". This express language cannot be ignored. The Office Action makes no reference to a teaching or suggestion in either of the cited references through such a structure."

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Applicant would request that the Examiner contact Reena Kuyper in the event that further matters remain in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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